



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
608 WRIGHT STREET, SOUTH  
URBANA, IL 61801

Subject: ELLISON, RALPH WALDO

FOIPA No. 0978197- 000 /190-

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(2) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) _____      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) |
| _____                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D) |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)            |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)            |   |

Section 552a

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |

8 preprocessed pages are enclosed. To expedite requests, preprocessed packages are released the same way they were originally processed. Documents or information originating with other Government agencies were not referred to those agencies as part of this release.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience is, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information

processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit,

☐ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts**

**Release**

**Subject: RALPH ELLISON**

---

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a), and/or Litigation

☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester

b7C

Subject

Computer or Case Identification Number

Title of Case THIS FILE HAS BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO WARRANT REVIEW BY THE

\*File

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNIT

DATE 11/23/98 kls

Serials Reviewed 100-428862

Release Location \*File

Section

☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester

Subject

Computer or Case Identification Number

Title of Case

\*File

Section

Serials Reviewed

Release Location \*File

Section

☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester

Subject

Computer or Case Identification Number

Title of Case

\*File

Section

Serials Reviewed

Release Location \*File

Section

\*Indicate if FBIHQ or Field Office File Number.

(This Form Is To Be Maintained As The Top Serial Of The File, But Not Serialized)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

4-19-50

WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FROM WASH FIELD

19

7:20p

DIRECTOR AND SAC

ROUTINE

b7C

[REDACTED] VOA. BUFILE ONE TWO THREE  
DASH FOUR SEVEN NAUGHT FIVE. REBULET APRIL SEVEN LAST. PASSPORT FILE IN NINETEEN  
FORTY FOUR LISTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WPA INVESTIGATIVE FILE REFLECT

APPLICANT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS EMPLOYED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7C

GAVE AS REFERENCES FOR WPA THE FOLLOWING: REV. A. C. POWELL, POSSIBLY ADAM  
CLAYTON POWELL, ONE THREE TWO W. ONE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHTH ST., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], ROY WILKINS EDITOR CRISIS MAGAZINE SIXTY NINE FIFTH AVE. ALL NYC.

[REDACTED]

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED - 73

INDEXED - 73

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

EX-30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

b7C

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED] AND GOT JOB ON PROJECT THRU CP BY EFFORTS OF

[REDACTED] RALPH ELLISON, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ABOVE FOR NY INFORMATION AND

INVESTIGATIVE AID. WFO ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO LOCATE PRIOR WPA REPORT  
OF PREVIOUS COMPLAINT BY FELLOW WORKER REPORTEDLY SUBPOINED BY DIES COMMITTEE.

HOTTEL

123-4365  
NEK:db

Approved: W. H.  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

970 330

3-17-83

February 16, 1954

RALPH ELLISON

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named individual. A review of the files, however, reflects that a pamphlet circulated by the League of American Writers contained a list of the signers to the call for the Fourth Congress of this organization to be held in New York City on June 6, 7, and 8, 1941. Among those listed appeared the name of one Ralph Ellison, not further identified. The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7372-37 page 11)

b7D

According to a confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Informant Robert - M) (61-9182-26)

The Spring, 1942, Volume 1, No. 1, issue of "Negro Quarterly," a magazine published by the Negro Publishing Society of America, 67 West 125th Street, New York City, listed the name of Ralph Ellison as Managing Editor. The "Negro Quarterly" has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities. (100-123974-4)

RECORDED-92

It was reported on April 16, 1942, that a mass rally was held on April 12, 1942, in New York City to start a fund raising campaign for "New Masses." The informant advised that Ralph Ellison, Negro writer, appeared as a speaker at this rally. The "New Masses" has been cited by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities as a "nationally circulated weekly journal of the Communist Party, whose ownership was vested in the American Fund for Public Service."

(Informant Robert - M) (61-9182-26)

In an open letter dated June 10, 1942, demanding the reconsideration of the order of the Attorney General for the deportation of Harry Bridges, the name of Ralph Ellison, Managing Editor, "The Negro Quarterly," New York, New York, appeared as a signature. (100-1170-201) MAILED

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Original to US Information Agency  
Request received 1/13/54

FEB 16 1954

NAME CHECK

CONFIDENTIAL

b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Daily Peoples World" for September 23, 1942, carried an article in which the name of one Ralph Ellison, not further identified, appeared as one supporting a petition for the opening of a second front sponsored by the League of American Writers. The "Daily Peoples world" has been cited by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities as "the official organ of the Communist Party on the west coast."

(100-7322-4)

The November, 1942, issue of "New Masses" carried an advertisement announcing the presentation of its new board of contributing editors at a dinner to be held on November 26, 1942, at the Murray Hill Hotel in New York City. A partial list of guests included the name of one Ralph Ellison, not further identified. (61-9182-34)

A confidential informant of known reliability advised that [redacted] appeared as a signer of the call for the Fifth Congress of the League of American Writers to be held in Hollywood, California, from September 17 through 19, 1943, under the auspices of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. The Hollywood Writers Mobilization has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (Informant [redacted] (100-7322-52)

This is the result of a request for an FBI file check and is not to be considered as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. It is for your use only and is not to be disseminated to unauthorized individuals or agencies.

b7D

b2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



# SUMMARY

RALPH ELLISON  
LION BOOKS  
655 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

6/14/84  
10/23/90  
107 Macfate  
293,827

The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 78th Congress, (Dies Committee) on the Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States, on page 1446 begins a listing of "Party and Party Line Publications." Thereafter is set out a number of publications used by the Communist Party for propaganda purposes. On page 1447 Ralph Ellison is listed as a member of the editorial board of "Champion," according to the issue of November, 1937. On page 1452 Ralph Ellison is listed as a contributing editor to "Negro Champion," per its January 12, 1929, issue.

Also in the above report, on page 1351, Ralph Ellison is listed as a contributor to "New Masses." For citation of "New Masses," see page 105 of the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," (GSOP) issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Washington, D. C.

The Dies Committee report also shows the following:

On page 974 Ralph Ellison is listed as a signer of the call to the Fourth Congress of the League of American Writers (see page 52 of GSOP) in 1941.

On page 576 Ralph Ellison is listed as a sponsor of the Artists' Front to Win the War (see page 20 of GSOP). (61-7582-1298)

On page 1007 Ralph Ellison was identified as one "who is O.K.'d by the Communist Party, but not a member," while on page 1008 Ralph Ellison is identified as "A Negro Communist" and member of the executive board at large of the Workers Alliance (see page 92 of GSOP) in the Federal Writers' Union. This information was given in testimony by Edwin P. Banta, 215 East 17th Street, Manhattan, New York, on September 15, 1938. (61-7582)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ULG:dsb

(7)

MAIL ROOM ☐

(33)

55

## AMERICAN WRITERS CONGRESS

For citation see page 19 of GSOP.

The "Sunday Worker" of June 8, 1941, published an article captioned "Noted Writers Join Pickets in 'Day' Strike." This showed the pickets before the struck Jewish Day at 189 East Broadway were augmented on June 7, 1941, by a group of prominent authors then in New York City for the Fourth American Writers Congress. Listed was author Ralph Ellison. (100-31091-A)

An article datelined New York, June 6, (1941), appeared in "The Chicago Herald-American," captioned "Red Scribes Cheer Air Strikers." This reported the Red-dominated Fourth American Writers' Congress, closed with election of officers. Among those named to the national executive board was Ralph Ellison. (100-7322-10)

## LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

An article entitled "American Writers Call for Second Front Now," in September 23, 1942, issue of "Peoples World" reflects that writers were enthusiastically behind President Roosevelt for the immediate opening of a second front now. The name of one Ralph Ellison appeared as one supporting a petition for the opening of a second front sponsored by the League of American Writers. (100-7322-A)

## "NEW MASSES"

"New Masses" published a special issue under date of October 20, 1942, entitled "The Negro and Victory." The entire issue was devoted to the Negro and Negro problems. Among articles included was one by Ralph Ellison. (100-3-4-1025)

The November, 1942, issue of "New Masses" carried an advertisement announcing the presentation of its new board of contributing editors at a dinner to be held on November 28, 1942, at the Murray Hill Hotel in New York City. A partial list of guests included the name of one Ralph Ellison. (61-9182-34)

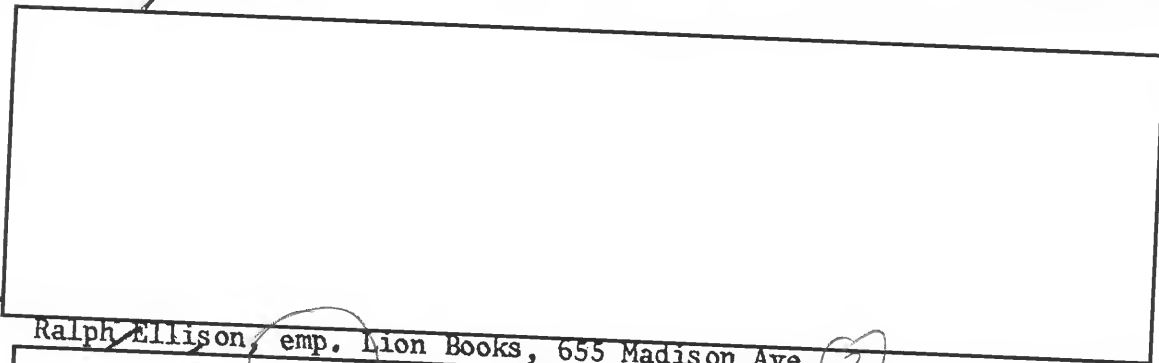
## "NEGRO QUARTERLY"

The Spring, 1942, issue of "Negro Quarterly," a magazine published by the Negro Publishing Society of America, 67 West 125th Street, New York City, listed Ralph Ellison as Managing Editor. The "Negro Quarterly" has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities. (100-123974-4)

#### MISCELLANEOUS

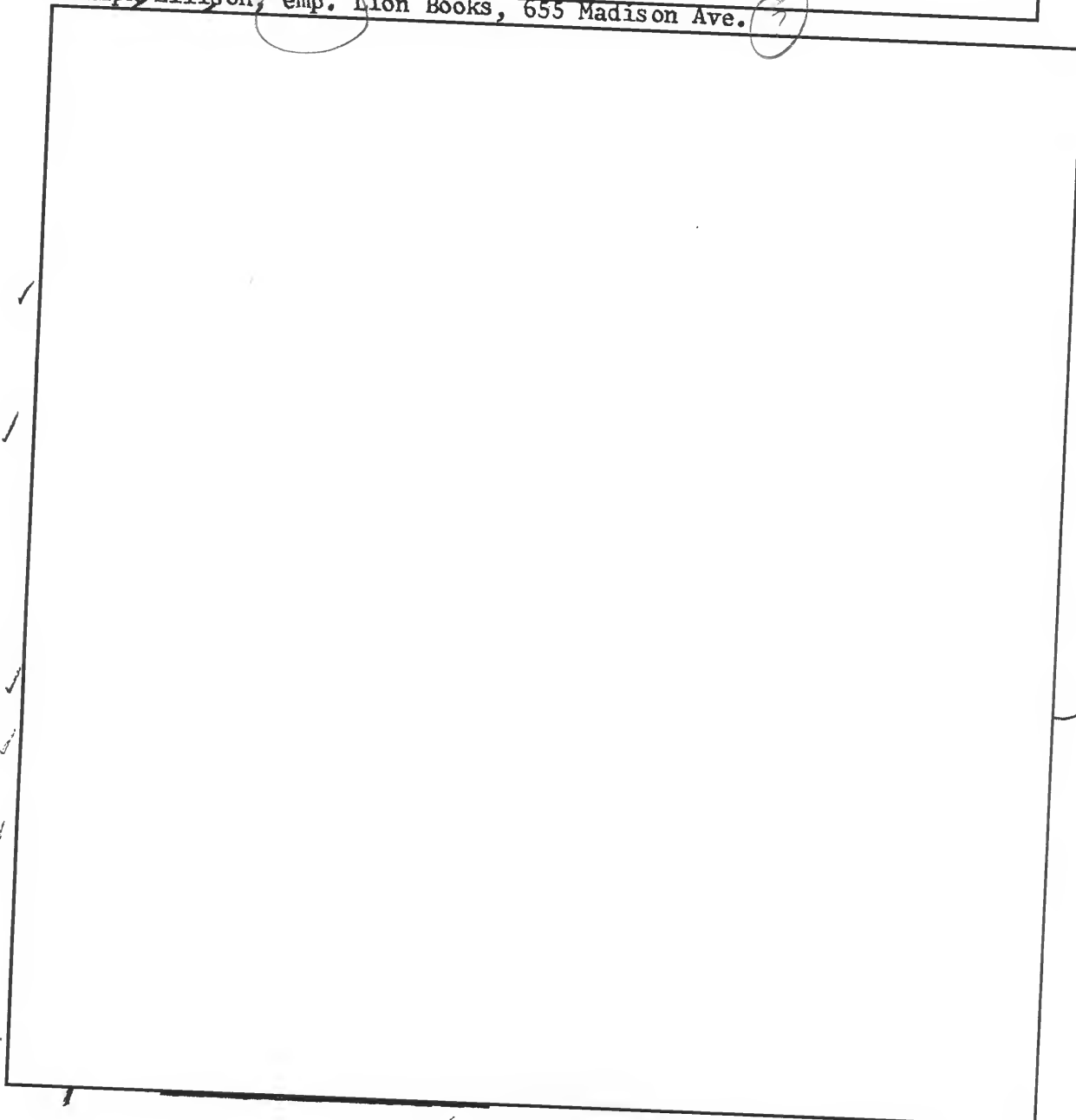
The "Daily Worker" of May 15, 1952, published a column by Abner W. Berry entitled "On the Way;" Sub-titled "Here's the Literature The Lynchers Ordered." This contains a review of several books on Negroes, including one entitled "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison, "a Negro writer." Berry states "Ellison's Negro women are loose-moraled from school days onward. Negro ministers double as pimps and numbers runners. Communists are dis-embodied spirits of theory existing in neither time nor space, but in a special and jaundiced compartment of the author's mind..." He adds, "Ellison is being hailed in the daily commercial press' literary columns as 'great,' and his book is already a best seller. It is just what the killers of Negroes and the perverters of culture ordered..." (100-135-A)

(The following are all residents of New York City; street address unknown where not given:)



b7C

Ralph Ellison, emp. Lion Books, 655 Madison Ave. 7



b7C

62-11203-541

RALPH ELLISON  
Member "Committee of 100," NAACP,  
Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

A name check of the indices and/or printed hearings of the HCUA on the name RALPH ELLISON and RALPH WALDO ELLISON, on 4/29/53, by SE [REDACTED] reflected the following references which were not checked against the original source:

1. One RALPH E. ELLISON, 420W, 150th St., Manhattan, NY, was a signer of the 1939-40 CP petitions for State and City elections.
2. The "Champion" of Nov., 1937, page 3, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a member of the Editorial Board.
3. The "Daily People's World" of 12/15/54, page 7, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as the writer of an article.
4. "New Masses," for 3/16/38, page 26, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses." b7C
5. "New Masses," dated 12/5/39, page 27, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses."
6. "New Masses," dated 5/14/40, page 5, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses."
7. The "Daily Worker" of 7/19/42, page 4, reflects one RALPH ELLISON, Managing Editor, "The Negro Quarterly," NYC, as a signer, of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Open letter of 7/11/42, addressed to the President of the US, denouncing Attorney General's charges against [REDACTED] and the CP.
8. "New Masses," dated 5/28/40, 6/18/40, 7/2/40, 9/24/40, 10/20/40, 11/4/41, and 12/2/41, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor.
9. A leaflet entitled "Hindsight Wins No Wars!", published about 1942, reflects one RALPH ELLISON, Managing Editor, "Negro Quarterly," as contributing editor of "New Masses."

10. The "New Masses," of 4/22/41, page 25, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a signer of a call to the Fourth Congress, 6/6-8/41, at NYC, for the League of American Writers.

11. A leaflet entitled, "In Defense of Culture," filed in Investigator [redacted] Report, dated 4/4-6/41, as Exhibit 5, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a signer for the American Writer's Congress, to call to the Fourth Congress at NY on 6/6-8/41.

b7C

12. A new's release dated 12/26/41, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a signer for the National Federation for Constitutional liberties.

13. "News Masses," dated 2/3/42, page 31, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a speaker for the League of American Writers.

14. "New Masses," dated 3/24/42, page 31, reflects one RALPH ELLISON a commentator for the League of American Writers.

15. "New Masses," dated 3/31/42, page 26, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "The Negro Quarterly."

16. "New Masses," dated 3/31/42, page 31, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a speaker for the League of American Writers.

17. A program, "Artist's Front to Win the War," dated 10/16/42, page 5, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a sponsor of "Artist's Front to Win the War."

18. The "Daily Worker," dated 11/18/42, page 6, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a member of the Board of Contributing Editors of "New Masses."

19. "New Masses," dated 6/22/43, and 9/7/43, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a Contributing Editor of "New Masses."

20. The "Daily Worker", of 9/14/42, page 7, and the "People's World," of 9/23/42, page 5, reflect one RALPH ELLISON as a signer for the League of American Writers of a statement in behalf of a second front.

21. "Masses and Mainstream," dated June, 1952, page 62, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a writer of "Invisible Man" reviewed by [REDACTED]

22. A booklet entitled, "600 Prominent Americans," which contains a reprint of an open letter and list of persons who signed it; published 9/11/42, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a signer for the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties of an open letter dated 7/11/42, to the President of the US, denouncing the Attorney General's charges against [REDACTED] and the CP.

b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAILED  
MAY 16 1955  
NAME CHECK

Photo  
CC TO: [illegible]  
REQ. REC'D: 5-21-66  
ANS BY: [illegible]

May 13, 1955

970 330

RALPH WALDO ELLISON  
Born: March 1, 1914  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DE 3-17-63

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reflect the following information which may relate to the subject of your name check request.

A pamphlet circulated by the League of American Writers contained a list of the signers to the call for the Fourth Congress of this organization to be held in New York City on June 6, 7, and 8, 1941. Among those listed appeared the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified. The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(100-7372-37 p. 11)  
The Spring, 1942, volume 1, number 1, issue of "Negro Quarterly," a magazine published by the Negro Publishing Society of America, 67 West 125th Street, New York City, listed the name of Ralph Ellison as managing editor. The "Negro Quarterly" has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities.  
(100-123974-4)

In an open letter dated June 10, 1942, demanding the reconsideration of the order of the Attorney General for the deportation of Harry Bridges, the name of Ralph Ellison, managing editor, "The Negro Quarterly," New York, New York, appeared as a signature.

(100-1170-291) "Daily People's World," a west coast Communist newspaper, for September 23, 1942, carried an article in which the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified, appeared as one supporting a petition sponsored by the League of American Writers for the opening of a second front.

Orig. to: STATE

(100-732204)  
RECORDED - 65

Req. Rec'd: 11/29/55

12 MAY 17 1955

INDEXED - 65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 23 1955

b7C

b2

PASIDAR  
ENQUIRY WHEN MR GIVE TO AM ALBORN IN Rm 1



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The November, 1942, issue of "New Masses" carried an advertisement announcing the presentation of its new board of contributing editors at a dinner that was to be held on November 28, 1942, at the Murray Hill Hotel, in New York City. A partial list of guests included the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified.

(61-9182-34)

"New Masses" has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential informant who had furnished reliable information in the past advised that the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified, appeared as a signer of the call for the Fifth Congress of the League of American Writers that was to be held in Hollywood, California, from September 17 through 19, 1943, under the auspices of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. The Hollywood Writers Mobilization has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(100-7322-52 Confi Informant [redacted])

The foregoing information is furnished to you as the result of a request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

(62-60527-37436)

b2

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

42874

May 16, 1958

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Re: 49 Name Checks for [redacted]

There is attached the original list of 49 names received from [redacted] and a total of 40 memos containing information from public sources which may be furnished to [redacted]

b7C

As pointed out in my informal memo of May 8, 1958, the name, [redacted] had appeared on a previous list submitted by [redacted] hence, was not considered at this time. No record or pertinent information for dissemination was located in our files concerning 8 of the individuals identified on the original list from [redacted] This left a total of 40 persons on whom we have information which can be furnished him. Memos on these 40 are attached.

Enclosures

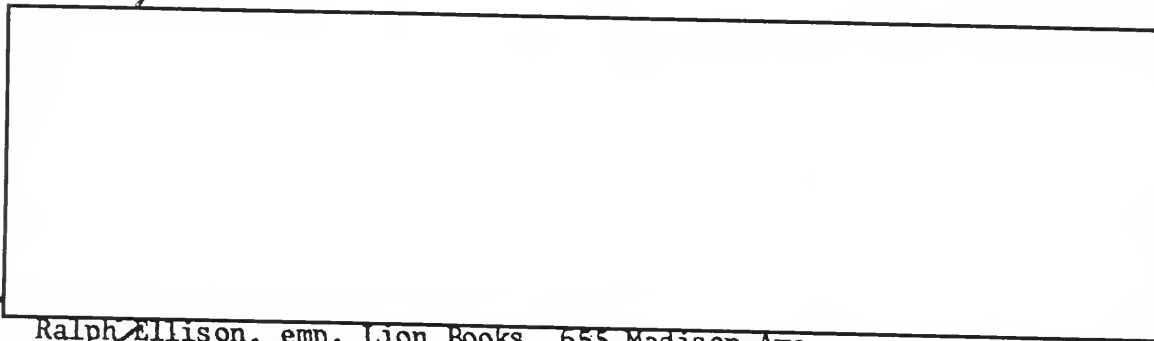
DWB:geg  
(7)

REC-31

57 JUN 6 1958

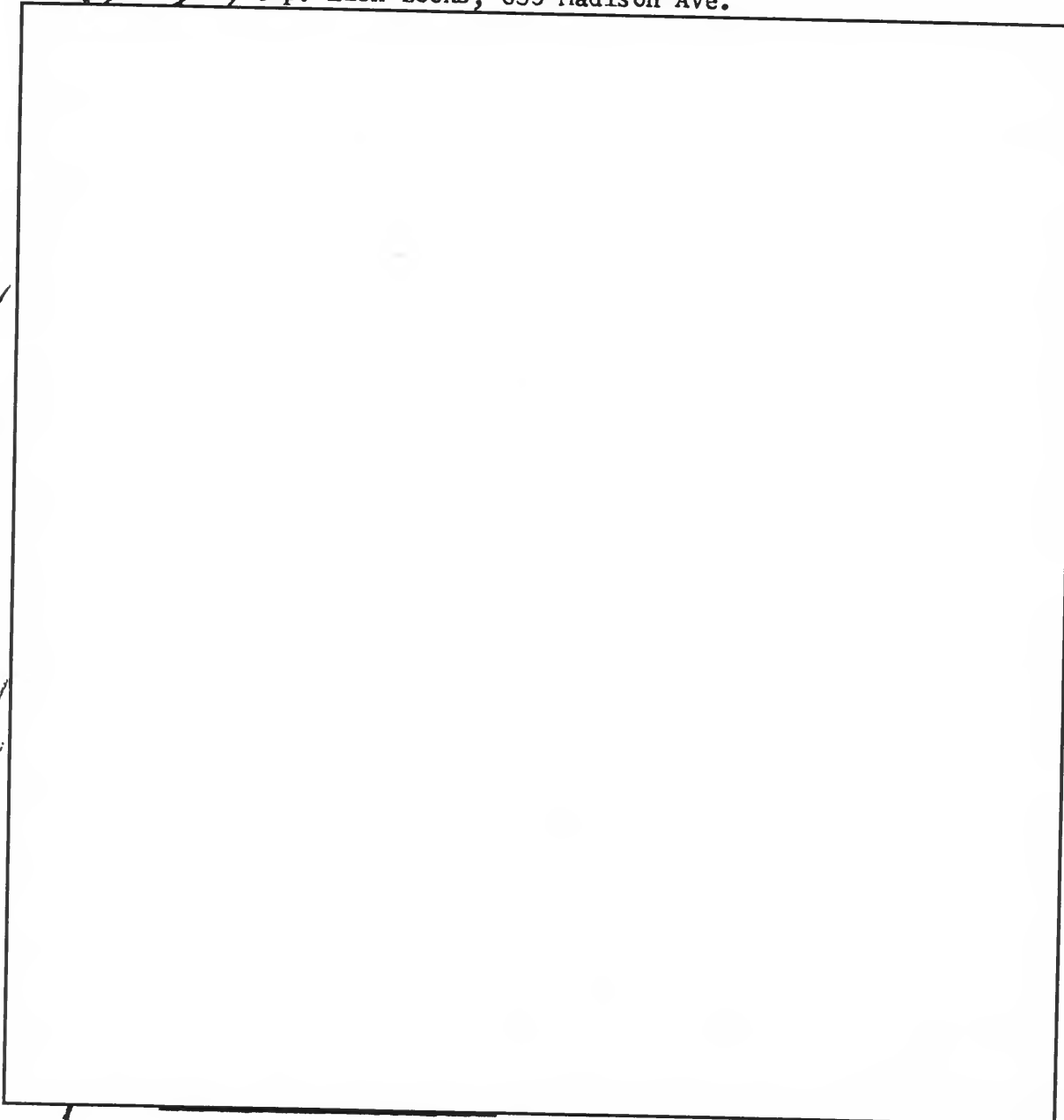
62-88217-507

(The following are all residents of New York City; street address unknown where not given:)



b7C

Ralph Ellison, emp. Lion Books, 655 Madison Ave.



b7C

62-10244-24

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : F. J. Baumgardner

DATE June 30, 1958

FROM :



b7C

SUBJECT

RALPH ELLISONOM-1

Attached is a memorandum prepared by the New York Office concerning captioned individual, which does not include any information obtained as the result of a file review at Seat of Government. The attached was transmitted by New York letter dated June 4, 1958, captioned "Communist Infiltration of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Internal Security - C," the original of which is filed in Bufile 61-3176-255.

EXTREME CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN UTILIZING THE INFORMATION IN THE ATTACHED AS INCLUDED THEREIN MAY BE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY THAT FROM THE INDICES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES (HCUA), WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED AS BEING IDENTICAL WITH CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL. THE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM, OR ANY REPRODUCTION THEREOF, SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED IN ITS ENTIRETY.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that instant memorandum and its attachment be routed to the Records Branch:

☐ To be filed in case file of captioned individual.

☒ To have a new 100 main inactive file opened on captioned individual and for filing therein.

REC-3

REC-3

Enclosure  
Bufile

UN 456

NY 100-7692 SUB C

RALPH ELLISON  
Member "Committee of 100,"  
National Association for  
Advancement of Colored  
People, Legal Defense and  
Education Fund, Inc.

RALPH (WALDO) ELLISON was born March 1, 1914, in Oklahoma City, and is a male of the Negro race who resides at 730 Riverside Drive, New York City. He is a writer.

The "Daily Worker" of April 5, 1941, page 7, column 2, reflects that RALPH ELLISON was one of more than 100 leading American writers who signed the Call of the Fourth Congress of the League of American Writers held in New York City June 6 - 8, 1941.

The "Daily Worker" of November 17, 1954, on page 5, reflects an article bearing the caption, "Beware of the Snake Who Dresses Like a Man" by RALPH ELLISON, in which the author warned of people being contacted by the Government to be informants.

The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) advised the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by communication dated November 19, 1942, that the "New Masses" is concentrating its efforts in order to insure success of a dinner it will sponsor on November 28, 1942, at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York City. The theme of this dinner and conference will be "Words Can Be Bullets." The guests of honor will include RALPH ELLISON.

The ONI, New York, by communication dated December 4, 1942, advised the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on November 28, 1942, the "New Masses" held a dinner to honor the New Board of Contributing Editors and that among the contributing editors at this dinner was RALPH ELLISON.

b7C

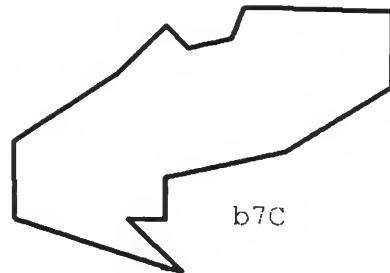


15d

100-7692 SUB C

RALPH ELLISON  
Member "Committee of 100,"  
National Association for  
Advancement of Colored  
People, Legal Defense and  
Education Fund, Inc.

The background data concerning ELLISON set out in the attached memorandum captioned as above was obtained from the 1956 - 1957 edition of "Who's Who In America."



b7C

RALPH ELLISON  
Member "Committee of 100," NAACP,  
Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

A name check of the indices and/or printed hearings of the HCUA on the name RALPH ELLISON and RALPH WALDO ELLISON, on 4/29/53, by SE [REDACTED] reflected the following references which were not checked against the original source:

1. One RALPH E. ELLISON, 420W, 150th St., Manhattan, NY, was a signer of the 1939-40 CP petitions for State and City elections.
2. The "Champion" of Nov., 1937, page 3, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a member of the Editorial Board.
3. The "Daily People's World" of 12/15/54, page 7, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as the writer of an article.
4. "New Masses," for 3/16/33, page 26, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses."
5. "New Masses," dated 12/5/39, page 27, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses."
6. "New Masses," dated 5/14/40, page 5, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor of "New Masses."
7. The "Daily Worker" of 7/19/42, page 4, reflects one RALPH ELLISON, Managing Editor, "The Negro Quarterly," NYC, as a signer, of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Open letter of 7/11/42, addressed to the President of the US. denouncing Attorney General's charges against [REDACTED] and the CP.
8. "New Masses," dated 5/28/40, 6/13/40, 7/2/40, 9/24/40, 10/20/40, 11/4/41, and 12/2/41, reflects one RALPH ELLISON as a contributor.
9. A leaflet entitled "Hindsight Wins No Wars!", published about 1942, reflects one RALPH ELLISON, Managing Editor, "Negro Quarterly," as contributing editor of "New Masses."

b7C

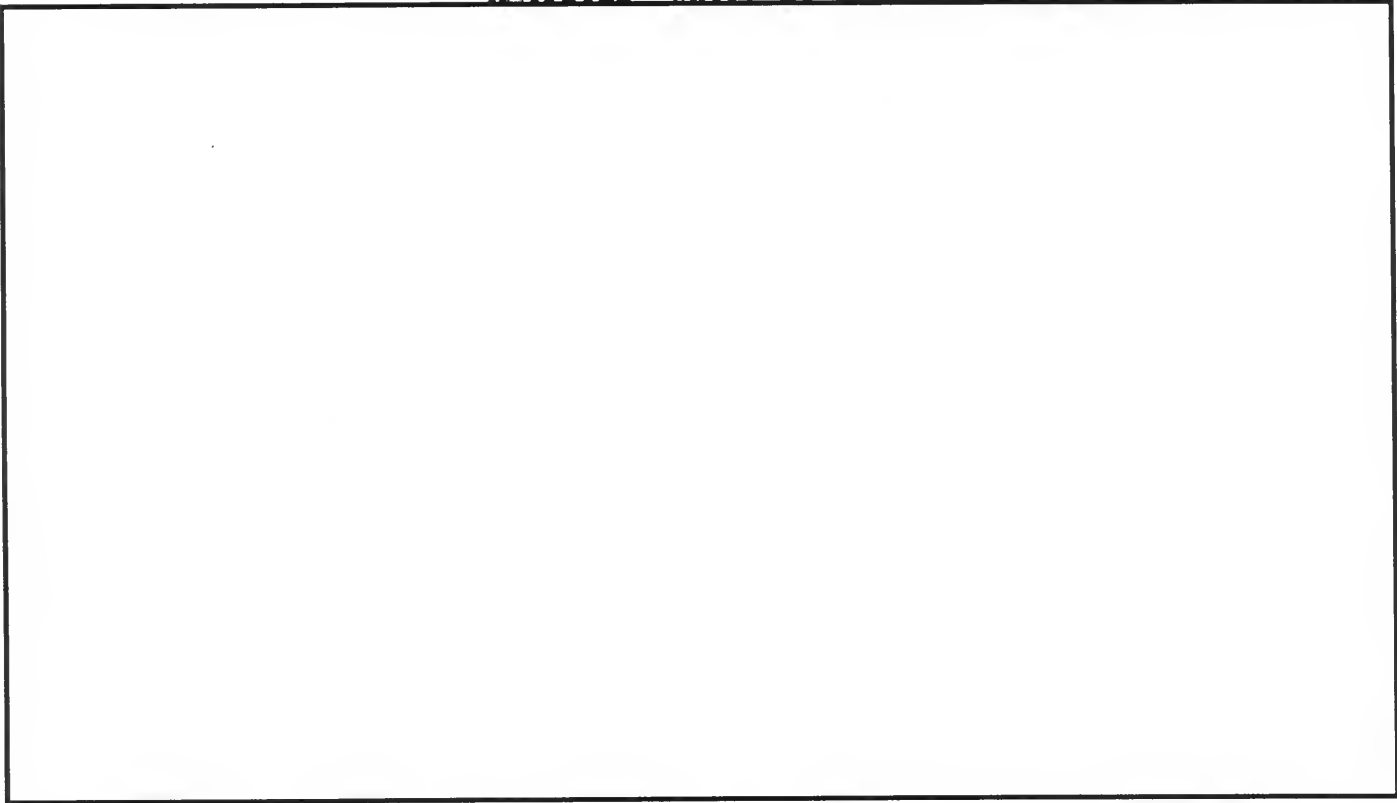
APPENDIX IX

23. Page 1351

Exhibit 2 is New Masses Delivers  
Information - Facts - Clarity - New  
Masses Does the Job. The War - The  
Nation - The Cultural World - New  
Masses Does the Job. One of the  
contributors of this was RALPH ELLISON.

Page 1452

RALPH ELLISON is listed as an officer, and  
managing editor of the "Negro Quarterly,"  
published by Negro Publication Society of  
America, Inc., at 67 West 125th St., NYC.



OTHER

Executive Session Testimony withheld. Not within the purview of the Freedom of Information Act.



ARTISTS' FRONT TO WIN THE WAR

1. Cited as a Communist front (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, page 96.)

THE "CHAMPION"

The "Champion" is the "official organ of the Young Communist League and also of the International Workers Order," according to the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, annual report H. R. 2277, 6/5/42, page 17; also cited in House report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, 3/29/44, page 139.

COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communist Party has been designated by Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD"

1. West Coast Communist newspaper which  
suspended publication on February 1, 1957.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"MASSES AND MAINSTREAM"

1. Cited as the successor to "New Masses," "a Communist magazine." (Committee on Un-American Activities, House report 1953 on the Congress of American Women, April 26, 1950, originally released 10/23/49, page 75; also cited in House report 1694 on Organized Communism in the United States, May 28, 1954, originally released August, 1953, page 98.)

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"DAILY WORKER"

The "Daily Worker" was an East coast Communist newspaper which discontinued publication on January 13, 1958.



1. RALPH ELLISON

2 none

3. yes

4. no

5. no

6 no

7 yes (9-7-43)

8 4

9 no

101 - 82222 - 1

FBI

Date: 10/4/63

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL REGISTERED  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

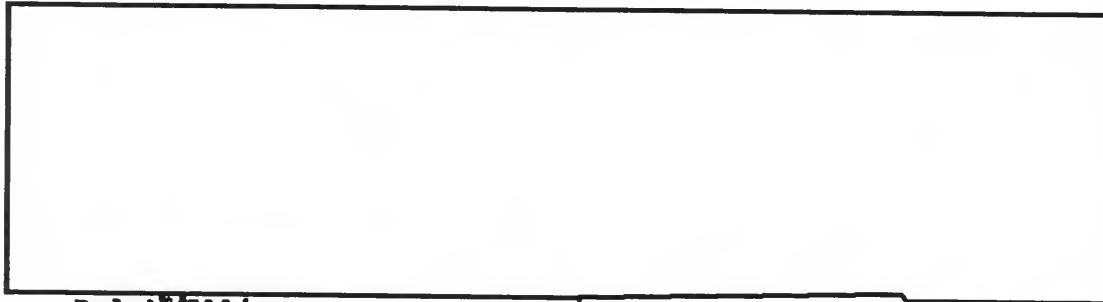
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-3176)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-7629 Sub D)

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
COLORED PEOPLE  
IS - C  
(OO: NY)

ReBuairtel 8/15/63 and NYairtel 8/28/63.

Enclosed are three copies of a LHM and one copy of a cover memorandum, as well as an additional copy of each for the Bureau file, where known, on the following individuals:



Ralph Ellison



100-428862

NOT RECORDED  
47 OCT 8 1963

- ③ - Bureau (Enc-25) (RM)  
1 - New York (100-7629 Sub D)

AEC:IM  
(5)

ENCLOSURE

OCT 2 5 1963

OCT 5 1963

Approved: 769

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 61-3176-3713



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York

OCT 4 1963

51-3175

Ralph Ellison  
Member, The 'Committee of 100'  
In Support of the N.A.A.C.P.  
Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

I. Background

Ralph (Waldo) Ellison was born March 1, 1914, in Oklahoma City and is a Negro male who resides at 730 Riverside Drive, New York City. He is a writer.

II. Subversive Information

The "Daily Worker" of April 5, 1941, page 7, column 2, reflects that Ralph Ellison was one of the more than 100 leading American writers who signed the Call of the 4th Congress of the League of American Writers held in New York City, June 6 through 8, 1941.

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast Communist newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1955.

The League of American Writers has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily Worker" of November 17, 1954, on page 5, reflects an article bearing the caption, "Beware of the Snake Who Dresses Like a Man" by Ralph Ellison, in which the author warned of people being contacted by the Government to be informants.

The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) advised the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by communication dated November 19, 1942, that the "New Masses" is concentrating its efforts to insure success of a dinner it will sponsor on November 20, 1942, at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York City.

11  
10  
01  
11

11 11

Ralph Ellison

The theme of this dinner and conference will be "Words Can Be Bullets". The guests of honor will include Ralph Ellison.

A characterization of "New Masses" appears in the Appendix attached hereto.

The ONI, New York, by communication dated December 12, 1942, advised the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on November 28, 1942, "New Masses" held a dinner to honor the New Board of Contributing Editors and among the contributing editors at this dinner was Ralph Ellison.

III. Records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA)

b7C A name check of the indices and/or printed hearings of the HCUA on the name Ralph Ellison and Ralph Waldo Ellison was conducted on April 29, 1958, by SE [redacted] and reflected the following pertinent references, which were not checked against the original source:

One, Ralph M. Ellison, 420 West 140th Street, Manhattan, New York, was a signer of the 1939 and 1940 CP petitions in state and city elections.

The "Champion" of November, 1937, page 3, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a member of the Editorial Board.

A characterization of the "Champion" appears in the Appendix attached hereto under the heading "Champion of Youth."

Ralph Ellison

The "Daily People's World" of December 15, 1954, page 7, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a writer of an article.

The "Daily People's World" was a West Coast Communist newspaper, which suspended publication on February 1, 1957.

The "New Masses" issues dated August 16, 1938, page 26, December 5, 1939, page 27, May 14, 1940, page 5; May 28, 1940, June 18, 1940, July 2, 1940; September 24, 1940, October 20, 1940, November 4, 1941; December 2, 1941, June 22, 1943; and September 7, 1943, reflect one Ralph Ellison as a contributor or as a contributing editor of "New Masses."

The "Daily Worker" of July 19, 1942, page 4, reflects one Ralph Ellison, Managing Editor, "The Negro Quarterly", New York City, as a signer of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties' open letter of July 11, 1942, addressed to the President of the United States, denouncing the Attorney General's charges against Harry Bridges of the Communist Party (CP).

The "Dispatcher", official publication of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), in its September 16, 1955, issue, carries Harry Renton Bridges as President of the ILWU on its masthead.

Since 1921, when Bridges first filed papers for naturalization as an Australian immigrant, numerous proceedings have taken place in Federal Courts and in administrative hearings of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regarding Bridges' status as a citizen.

The following witnesses have testified in court during the Bridges deportation and denaturalization trials that Bridges was a Communist from 1933 to about 1937:

Ralph Allison

John Schomaker, Lanning Johnson,  
Henry Schrimpf and David Saunders.  
Saunders testified that Bridges  
was elected to the CP National  
Committee in 1937.

Ralph Ellison

On July 29, 1955, United States District Judge Louis E. Goodman, San Francisco, California, ruled in favor of Bridges as a result of a civil denaturalization trial. Judge Goodman concluded that "the government has failed to prove the allegation.. as to membership in the Communist Party by clear and convincing evidence."

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties is designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A leaflet entitled, "Hindsight Wins No Wars" published about 1942, reflects one Ralph Ellison, Managing Editor, "The Negro Quarterly", as a contributing editor of "New Masses."

The "New Masses" of April 22, 1941, page 25, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a signer of the Call of the 4th Congress, June 6 through 8, 1941 at New York City, for the League of American Writers.

b7C

A leaflet entitled, "In Defense of Culture," filed in Investigator [ ] Report dated April 4 through 6, 1941, as Exhibit 5, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a signer for the American Writers Congress to call the 4th Congress at New York on June 6 through 8, 1941.

A news release dated December 26, 1941, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a ~~speaker~~ for the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

"New Masses" dated February 3, 1942, page 31 and March 31, 1942, page 31, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a speaker for the League of American Writers.

Ralph Ellison

"New Masses" dated March 24, 1942, page 31, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a commentator for the League of American Writers.

A program, "Artists' Front to Win the War" dated October 16, 1942, page 5, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a sponsor of "Artists' Front to Win the War."

A characterization of "Artists' Front to Win the War" appears in the appendix attached hereto.

The "Daily Worker" dated November 18, 1942, page 6, reflects one Ralph Ellison is a member of the Board of Contributing Editors of "New Masses."

The "Daily Worker" of September 14, 1942, page 7, and the "People's World" of September 23, 1942, page 5, reflect one Ralph Ellison as a signer for the League of American Writers of a statement in behalf of a second front.

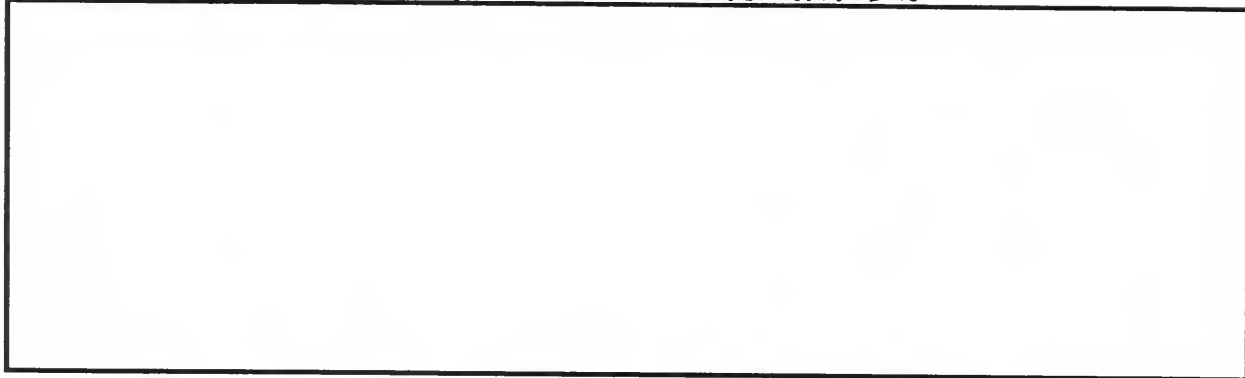
The "People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

A booklet entitled "600 Prominent Americans", which contains a reprint of an open letter and a list of persons who signed it, published September 11, 1942, reflects one Ralph Ellison as a signer for the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties of an open letter dated July 11, 1942, to the President of the United States, denouncing the Attorney General's charges against Harry Bridges and the CP.



Ralph Ellison

Appendix IX, Pages 1007 and 1008 of HCUA Records



On September 16, 1963, the records of the  
HCUA were again checked by Investigative Clerk [redacted]  
[redacted] and reflected no additional pertinent  
information.

b7C

OTHER

**Executive Session Testimony withheld. Not within the purview of the Freedom of Information Act.**

Ralph Ellison

1.

APPENDIX

ARTISTS' FRONT TO WIN THE WAR

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, reflects the following citation concerning the Artists' Front to Win the War:

"1. Cited as a Communist front.  
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities,  
House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee,  
March 29, 1944, p. 96.)"

Ralph Ellison

1.

APPENDIX

CHAMPION OF YOUTH (OR CHAMPION)

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, reflects the following citation concerning Champion of Youth (or Champion):

"1. 'Official organ of the Young Communist League and also of the International Workers Order.'  
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Annual Report, House Report 2277, June 25, 1942, p.17; also cited in House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, p. 139.)"

Ralph Ellison

1.

APPENDIX

NEW MASSES

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, reflects the following citation concerning New Masses:

"1. 'New Masses, a weekly publication, \* \* \* was an officially controlled organ of the (Communist) Party which dealt principally with problems in the arts and sciences from the Party point of view.'

(Subversive Activities Control Board, Docket No. 108-53, Report and Order with respect to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, December 21, 1955, p.8.)

"2. A 'Communist periodical.'  
(Attorney General Francis Biddle, Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, p. 7688.)

"3. 'Nationally circulated weekly journal of the Communist Party \* \* \* whose ownership was vested in the American Fund for Public Service' (Garland Fund)

(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, pp. 48 and 75; also cited in Annual Reports, House Report 2, January 3, 1939, p. 80; and House Report 2277, June 25, 1942, pp. 4 and 21.)"

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO Mr. DeLoach

DATE 12-10-64

FROM

SUBJECT NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE

[redacted] of the White House has requested  
a check of Bureau files concerning the following individuals: [redacted]

[redacted] Ralph Waldo Ellison [redacted]  
[redacted]

→ even in case copy name use  
LA 19305

b7C

Attached is a letter to Honorable [redacted] over the  
Director's signature reflecting the results of these checks.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter over the Director's signature  
to [redacted] be approved and sent by liaison. When the letter is  
delivered, he should also be informed of [redacted]  
[redacted] the results of which were furnished to him as  
indicated above.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Mohr - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Evans - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

JMM:smg  
(10)

100-428862

NOT RECORDED  
170 DEC 15 1964

8 DEC 14 1964

RESEARCH

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-5-21186-1

December 10, 1964

BY LIAISON

100-428862

Associate Counsel to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear [redacted]

Reference is made to the name check requests from [redacted]  
concerning [redacted] Ralph Waldo Ellison

The files of the FBI contain no derogatory information identifiable [redacted]

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning Ralph Waldo Ellison, born March 1, 1914, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. However, the files of this Bureau reveal the following information which may possibly be identical to him.

A pamphlet circulated by the League of American Writers contained a list of the signers to the call for the Fourth Congress of this organization to be held in New York City in June, 1941. Among those listed appeared the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified.

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that the name of Ralph Ellison, not further identified, appeared as a signer of the call for the Fifth Congress of the League of American Writers that was to be held in Hollywood, California, in September, 1943, under the auspices of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization.

The League of American Writers and Hollywood Writers Mobilization have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (62-5-1657)

1 - Mr. Belmont (Sent with cover memo) 1 - Mr. Mohr (Sent with cover memo)  
1 - Mr. DeLoach (Sent with cover memo) 1 - Mr. Evans (Sent with cover memo)  
1 - Mr. Rosen (Sent with cover memo) NOTE: See [redacted] to [redacted]  
[redacted] (11) Memo dated 12-10-64, captioned "Name Check Requests for White House"

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Honorable [redacted]

[redacted] The files of the Identification Division contain no arrest record identifiable with Ralph Waldo Ellison based on the background data furnished in connection with this name check request.

b7C

[redacted]  
Sincerely yours,